



#7/C

☐ DESIGN ☒ UTILITY PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: David R. Payne, Gerald A. Stangl,
Norman E. Stevens, Jr., and Michael F. Gard

Serial No.: 09/481,351

Filed: January 12, 2000

For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR
AUTOMATICALLY DRILLING
AND BACKREAMING A
HORIZONTAL BORE
UNDERGROUND

Att'y Dkt. No.: 082380-00339

Group Art Unit: 3672

Examiner: R. Addie

RECEIVED

OCT 24 2003

GROUP 3600

Mail Stop Fee Amendment
Commissioner For Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED 4/11/03

Please amend the subject application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims:

1-11. Cancelled.

12-20. Withdrawn.

21. Cancelled.

22. Withdrawn.

23. Cancelled.

24. Cancelled.

25. (Currently Amended) A horizontal drilling system comprising:

a horizontal drilling machine having a plurality of automated functions, and

further comprising:

a drill string, having a first end and a second end;

a drive system operatively connectable to the first end of the drill string

and adapted to advance the drill string through the earth;

a downhole tool connectable to the second end of the drill string;